**Research Directions:**

1. In class, select a news media outlet to watch, read, or listen to for a period of 5 days.
2. Each day, analyze the 3 lead stories presented by the news outlet and categorize them into political/local news, human interest, or entertainment/gossip stories.
3. Each day, analyze the 3 lead stories for evidence of bias. Use [this](http://www.umich.edu/~newsbias/manifestations.html) website from the University of Michigan to learn more about news bias. Consider the following in your analysis:
   1. Word Choice
   2. Omissions
   3. Limiting Debate
   4. Story Framing
   5. Sources
4. At the end of the 5-day period, consider which of the lead stories you find to be newsworthy and which you do not consider newsworthy

**Response Essay: *What is the “News?”***

* In a two-page (minimum), double-spaced, typed essay, please evaluate the credibility of the media outlet you selected as a “news” organization. What type of stories were they most likely to report on? What type (if any) of bias did you find in your analysis of the lead stories? How do you account for the presence or absence of bias? What stories did you find newsworthy and which did you not find newsworthy? Would you consider this media outlet a reliable source for “news?” Why? Why not?

**Scoring**:

* \_\_\_\_\_ / 30 points: Student turns in evidence of 5 day analysis of news media outlet that follows the guidelines listed above.
* \_\_\_\_\_ / 15 points: Student thoroughly discusses all points of response essay prompt
* \_\_\_\_\_ / 2.5 points: Response essay uses a clear writing style, correct spelling, and correct grammar
* \_\_\_\_\_ / 2.5 points: Response essay follows formatting guidelines